GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3170
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
SATELLITE IMAGERY OF FOREST COVER
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN;HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey / satellite imagery of forest cover in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether forest cover is fast declining in some of the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance forest cover in the said areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country since 1987 using satellite data. As per the latest State of Forest Report 1999, forest cover of the country has increased from 6.33,397 Sq.km to 6.37,293 Sq.km. in the period from 1996 to 1998. During this period the forest cover has increased in 17 States and decreased in 12 States/UTs. State-wise details are given in Annexure.

(e) Various important actions taken by the Government for conservation and development of forests are as under:

i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

iii) Guidelines issued to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

vi) Recently, Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Programmeto enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3170 FOR 19.03 REGARDING SATELITE IMAGARY OF FOREST COVER.

Comparative account of forest cover of States/UTs as per 1997 and 1999 assessments.

State/UT	Forest cover as per State of Forest Report 1997 (sq.km.)	Forest cover as per State of Forest Report 1999 (sq.km.)	Change (sq.k.m)
Andhra Pradesh	43,290	44,229	939
Arunachal Pradesh	68,602	68,847	245
Assam	23,824	23,688	-136
Bihar	26,524	26,474	-50
Goa	1,252	1,251	-1
Gujarat	12,578	12,965	387
Haryana	604	964	360
Himachal Pradesh	12,521	13,082	561

Jammu & Kashmir	20,440	20,441	1
Karnataka	32,403	32,467	64
Kerala	10,334	10,323	-11
Madhya Pradesh	131,195	131,830	635
Maharashtra	46,143	46,672	529
Manipur	17,418	17,384	-34
Meghalaya	15,657	15,633	-24
Mizoram	18,775	18,338	-437
Nagaland	14,221	14,164	-57
Orissa	46,941	47,033	92
Punjab	1,387	1,412	25
Rajasthan	13,353	13,871	518
Sikkim	3,129	3,118	-11
Tamil Nadu	17,064	17,078	14
Tripura	5,546	5,745	199
Uttar Pradesh	33,994	34,016	22
West Bengal	8,349	8,362	13
A&N Islands	7,613	7,606	-7
Chandigarh	7	7	0
D& N Haveli	204	202	-2
Daman & Diu	3	3	0
Delhi	26	88	62
Lakshdweep+	-	-	-
Pondicherry+	-	-	-
Total	633,397	637,293	3,896

+ No discernible forest cover.